

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **25 August 2005**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-24. Claims 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ferchichi et al. (Pub No. 2003/0012382, hereinafter “Ferchichi”).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 9 to limit the computer-readable storage medium in claims 9-16 to tangible embodiments. Hence, claims 9-16 is now limited to statutory matter and are in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ferchichi. Applicant respectfully points out that Ferchichi teaches a single sign-on process **allowing a mobile user with a mobile phone or with a laptop** to remote-access a remote server. Specifically, Ferchichi proposes a single sign-on process which uses only one secret that serves for all authentications. Such a secret can be “a PIN, a password, a passphrase or biometrics data.” Furthermore, Ferchichi teaches the single sign-on process with **authentication that is not tied to a machine to log-on, but to communication layers of the machine** (see Ferchichi, Abstract, page 1, paragraphs [0004] to [0009], and [0019], page 2, paragraph [0053]).

In contrast, the present invention provides a system that facilitates global timeout in a distributed computing environment, wherein the distributed computing environment can include multiple applications on multiple application

servers. Specifically, the present invention provides a solution to a problem in a single sign-on process which arises when a user “times out” on one application even though the same user is active in another partner application (see page 2, lines 13-22, page 3, lines 6-18). More specifically, the present invention uses a **time-out detection mechanism (a time-out module)** in each of application server which ensures that the server always verifies a **time-stamp associated with a user access request**. This time-stamp is a global feature that can be updated by each application server (see page 4, lines 6-14, page 8, lines 13-19, page 9, lines 15-23 to page 10, lines 1-10). Such a global time-out system allows the user to re-authenticate to an application server when that server detects a time-out (see page 11, lines 3-8).

There is nothing within Ferchichi, either explicit or implicit, which suggests using such a global time-stamp to authenticate a user’s access request to multiple application servers, and subsequently allowing the user to re-authenticate to an application server if a time-out is detected on that particular server in the multiple application servers. Furthermore, the user requesting access is not limited to mobile users in the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 to clarify that the present invention provides a time-stamp based authentication expiration detection mechanism that solves global time-out problem. These amendments find support on the Abstract, page 4, lines 6-14, page 8, lines 13-19, and page 9, lines 15-23 to page 10, lines 1-10.

In addition, Applicant also amended claims 4, 12, and 20 to change their dependencies, so that claim 4 is now dependent on 1, claim 12 is now dependent on 9, and claim 20 is now dependent on 17. These amendments on claim dependencies are beneficial to clarify the purpose of the invention.


Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9 and 17, and dependent claim 4 which depends upon claim 1, claim 12 which depends upon claim 1, and claim 20 which depends upon claim 17, as presently amended

are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits dependent claims 2,3, and 5-8, which depend upon claim 1, claims 10,11 and 13-16, which depend upon claim 9, and claims 18,19, and 21-24, which depend upon claim 20, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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